

however, any cessation of its song. The insects composing the audience are extremely active; and so wary that they take flight at the least alarm on the too near approach of any intruder. Some of them, however, have been captured; and on examination these "proved to belong to the same family as that most beautiful of British insects—the lace-wing fly, which, indeed, they closely resemble except as to size, their measurement across the expanded wings being a little over two inches; they have since been identified by Mr. Kirby at the British Museum as *Notiochrysa gigantea*."—*Nature*.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

CAMBRIDGE ENTOMOLOGICAL CLUB.

10 October, 1890.—The 155th meeting of the Club was held at 156 Brattle St. Mr. S. H. Scudder was chosen chairman.

The meeting was devoted almost entirely to informal remarks. Among other topics Mr. S. H. Scudder discussed further damage by white ants in New England. Referring to remarks made by him at a previous meeting on the injuries to geranium cuttings in the forcing houses attached to Mt. Auburn cemetery, and to an article in the Canadian entomologist, by Dr. H. A. Hagen, on their abundance in Cambridge, he proceeded to describe the injuries done by *Termes flavipes* to tree ferns growing in tubs at the Botanic Garden in Cambridge, as well as to the tubs themselves. This had been pointed out to him by Mr. F. A. Quinn and Mr. Cameron of the Botanic Garden. He suggested the practicability of using staves for the tubs made of galvanized iron, or some such material, in place of wooden ones. (See *Psyche*, 1891, v. 6, p. 15.)

Mr. Scudder also called attention to the issue of a work on the genus Ornithoptera by Robt. H. F. Rippon.

Mr. J. H. Emerton exhibited a few sketches of *A. polyphemus* in process of expansion.

12 DECEMBER, 1890.—The 158th meeting of the Club was held at 156 Brattle St. Mr. S. Henshaw was chosen chairman.

Mr. Henshaw read a letter from Mr. Mann in relation to vol. 4 of *Psyche*, action on which was necessarily postponed on account of the absence of a quorum.

Mr. S. H. Scudder read the first of a series of letters from Dr. T. W. Harris to Mr. Thos. Say, and the latter's reply. These letters will be published later in *Psyche* (See v. 6, pp. 57-60).

9 JANUARY, 1891.—The 159th regular meeting and 15th annual meeting (since incorporation) was held at 156 Brattle St. Mr. S. H. Scudder was elected chairman.

The annual reports of the secretary and of the retiring librarian were accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

The annual report of the treasurer was presented and referred to the auditors.

Owing to the absence of a quorum the regular election of officers was postponed.

Mr. S. H. Scudder then read the annual address of retiring President Woodworth. The address was entitled "On the relations between scientific and economic entomology," and will be published in full in *Psyche* (See v. 6, pp. 19-21).

Mr. Scudder stated that by request of Mr. F. Bolles he had recently examined the contents of the stomach of three golden winged woodpeckers (*Colaptes auratus*) which he found to consist almost entirely of the remains of ants of several species. Considerable discussion followed with regard to the insect food of several other birds, notably the English sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and also the kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) and kildeer and golden plovers. It seemed to be the general opinion that insects eaten by birds would be better preserved, owing to the chitine in their composition, than seeds, berries, and other more soluble material, so that when a bird had eaten any insects, unless it was shot immediately after its meal, the insect remains would appear in excess.

The second letter from Dr. Harris to Mr. Say, and the latter's reply was read (See *Psyche*, v. 6, pp. 121-123).